



### Opening Discussion

Is there a time in your life when someone served you in dramatic fashion? How did it make you feel? Why do you think it made such a lasting impact?

### Consider

It goes by many names: pride, self-love, narcissism. The truth is, whatever you want to call it; we are a people of self-interest and self-exaltation. This reality is seen in our lives, our culture and even our churches. For many, the words of Philippians 2:4 have been reversed as we “look only to our interests, and not to the interests of others.”

But, no matter how dark our sin, it can never overcome the light that is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. In Mark 10:45 Jesus told his disciples “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

When it comes down to it, we are all in need of the service Christ provides us through the cross. His service has covered our lack of service. While our natural disposition is to look out for ourselves, Christ took on the form of a servant and looked out for us. And it is only when we are moved by how much Christ has served us, that we will be moved to “look not only to our own interests, but to the interests of others.”

We have been served to serve.

### Verses 32-34

1.) What can we learn from Jesus as he walks with purpose into the suffering that awaited him? What does this show us about his love for us? How does this help in the midst of our own suffering?

2.) When was the last time Jesus amazed you? Or, when was the last time that following after Jesus caused you to be afraid?

### Verses 35-41

1.) As James & John make their request of Jesus, they do so with little to no reverence. What makes Jesus deserving of our reverence? Why do you think we often do not approach with Him with the reverence he deserves?

2.) Despite all of the pressures that were looming over Jesus, his answer to James & John was full of patience and grace. Consider your responses to people this week – have they been full of patience and grace? If not, what steps could you take to restore that relationship, seek forgiveness and let the gospel shine brightly?

3.) Jesus told James & John that they too would drink the cup of suffering and be immersed (baptized) into trials. What sufferings and trials are you in right now as you seek to follow after Jesus? How can your group both help and pray for you?

### Verses 42-45

1.) How does taking the stance of a servant go against our human nature?

2.) How are a “servant” and a “slave” the same? How are they different? How do you see each playing out in the Christians life?

3.) How do we put away the worlds mindset, and adopt the mindset of Christ? Why does it take so much time? Where does our power to do this come from?

4.) In what ways was Jesus an example of humility and service to us?

5.) In regard to v.45 – how would you explain substitutionary atonement to someone who was not a Christian? Maybe have a few folks in your group take turns trying to explain this great truth.

6.) How might you explain to someone new in their faith what it means for Jesus to “ransom” us. What did he ransom us from? What was the cost? What did he pay with?

7.) How can Christ's service to you daily impact the way you serve those around you?